FLASHBACK

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ELEKTRA

MINUS 1 JULY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

CAN A BEAUTIFUL GREEK HEIRESS FIND LOVE IN THE ARMS OF A BOXER'S SON?

STICK™ SAYS SHE'S *BAD* FOR ME -- BUT I JUST *CAN'T ACCEPT* IT!

ALL FOR THE *Love* OF MATT MURDOCK!™

MIKE DEODATO JR.

DIRECT EDITION

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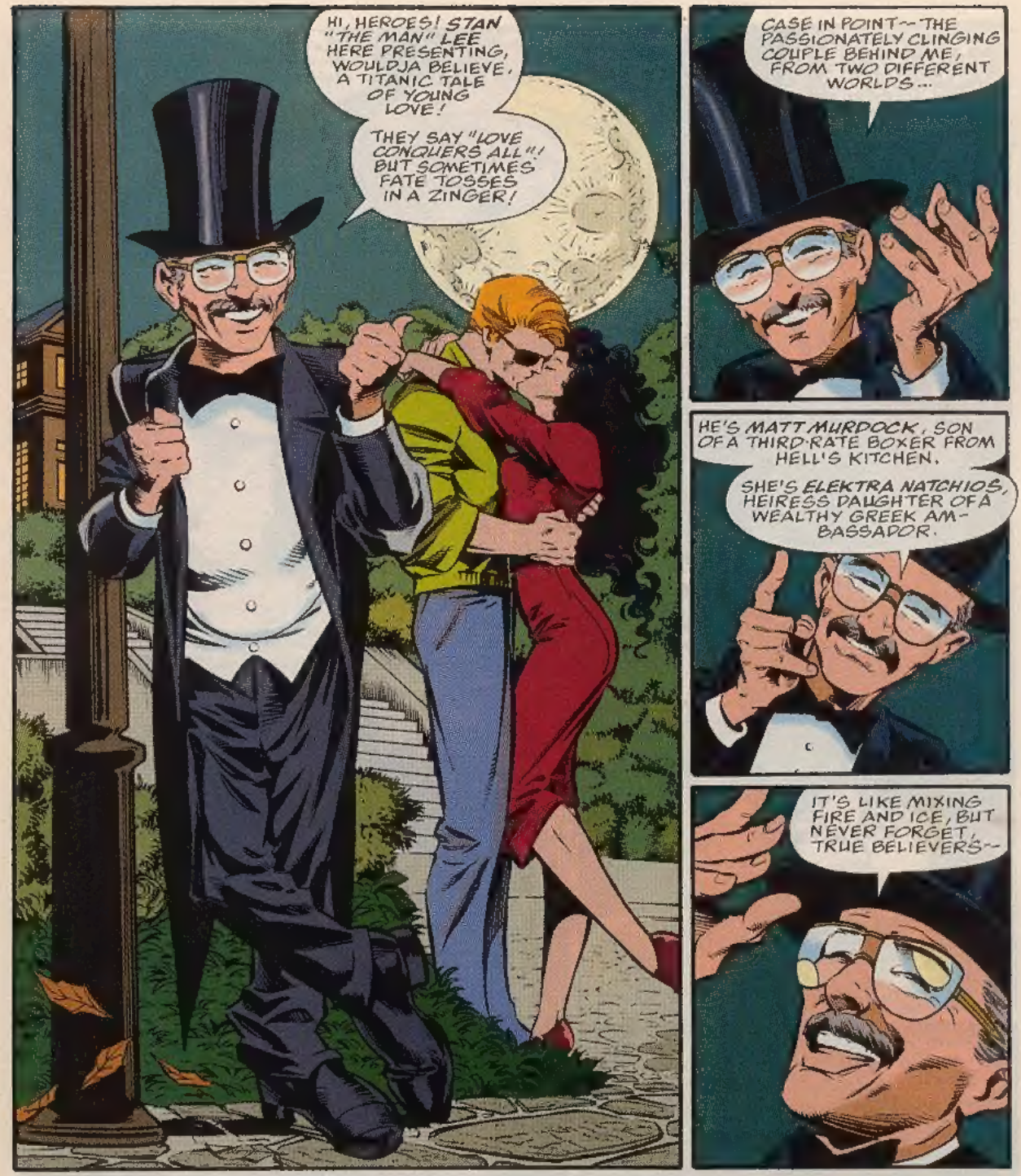

Love IS BLIND

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WE'D BETTER NOT GO ANY CLOSER TO MY ROOM. I HAD TO SNEAK AWAY FROM ATHOS TO BE WITH YOU, AND MY BODY-GUARD WILL BLAME YOU.
CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?
THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT.
ELEKTRA, IF YOU WANT TO, I'M SURE YOU COULD MAKE ANYTHING HAPPEN.
YOU'RE THE KIND OF AMERICAN BOY POPPA WARNED ME ABOUT.
HE WARNED YOU ABOUT BLIND STUDENTS WITH HEIGHTENED SENSES? GEE!
YES.
SAME TIME TOMORROW.
YOU'RE FUNNY.
AND YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. SAME TIME TOMORROW?

ONE YEAR LATER...
STAY AWAY FROM HER!
SHE'S BAD NEWS!
BUT, STICK! SHE'S THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME!
I DISAGREE!
AND THEN THE DAY CAME WHEN ELEKTRA'S WORLD FELL APART.
MATT TRIED TO SAVE ELEKTRA AND HER FATHER FROM MEN WHO WERE HOLDING THEM HOSTAGE.
Uhhh!!
HE TRIED TO SAVE THEIR LOVE.

BUT MATT FAILED.
POPPA!
NO!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

SHE FELT HER FATHER'S LIFE EBB AWAY...
...AND WITH IT, SOMEHOW, THE PRECIOUS THING THAT WAS THE LOVE ELEKTRA AND MATT SHARED.

SOON.
I'M GOING. GOING HOME.
TO EUROPE.

GOODBYE, MATT.
ELEKTRA! NO!

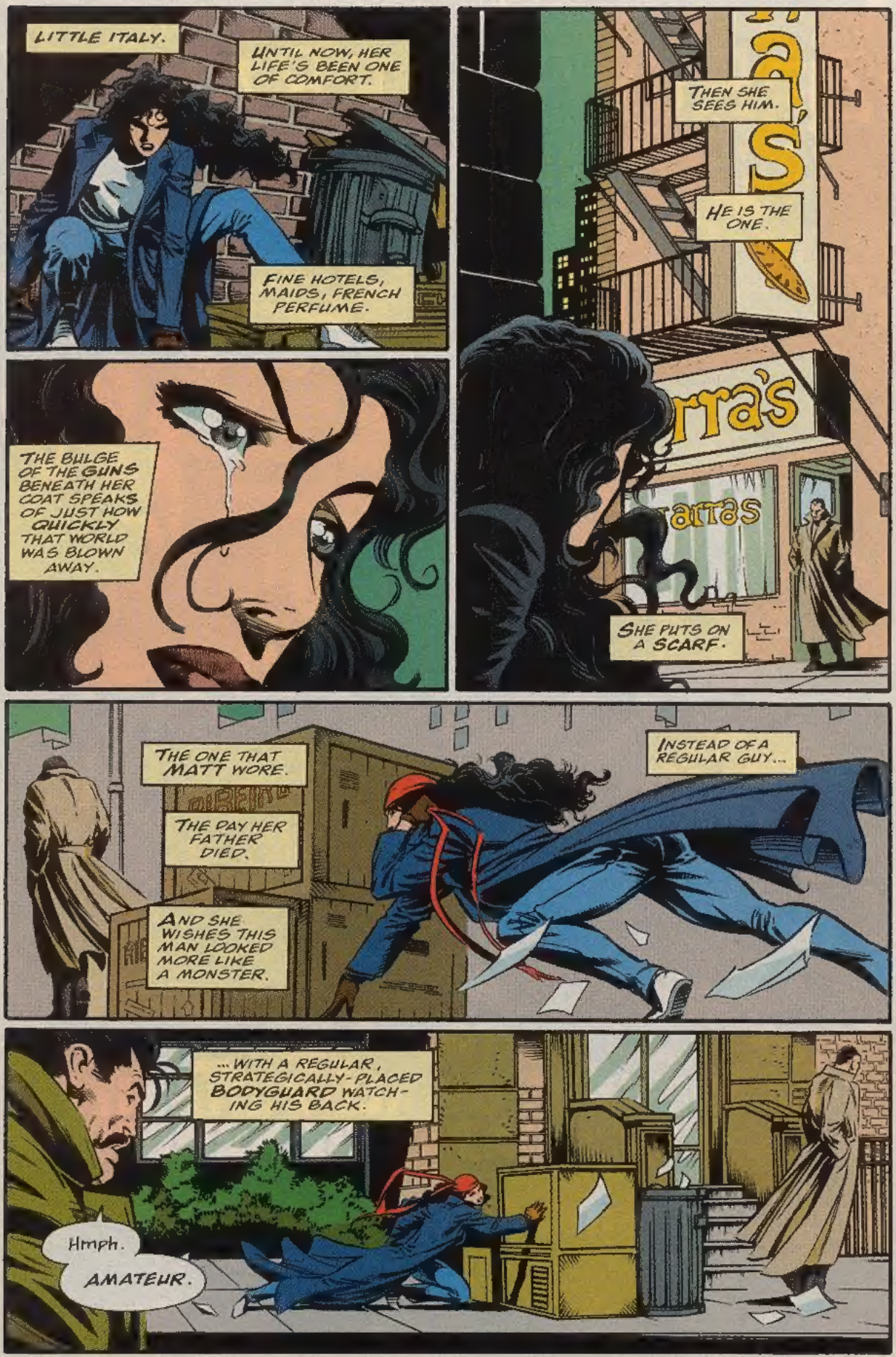
SHE DOES NOT TRUST HERSELF TO LOOK BACK.
SHE HAS JUST LIED TO MATT FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SHE DOES NOT GO TO EUROPE.

SHE GOES TO NEW YORK.
THE BOWERY.
SHE HAS COME IN SEARCH OF THE MAN WHO HIRED HER FATHER'S KILLERS.
SHE MAY BE A YOUNG WOMAN, ALONE, BUT SHE HAS MONEY.
AND MONEY IS AS BLIND AS LOVE.
SHE GETS A NAME. AN ADDRESS.
HEY, BABY, WHAT'S THE HURRY? WANNA SHOOT A LITTLE POOL?
NO THANK YOU.
ARFF!
WOW! THAT WAS SOME SHOT!

SHE'S SCARED, BUT TRIES NOT TO SHOW IT.
SHE SEARCHES FOR A CAB, BUT CABS DO NOT COME DOWN HERE.
PSSSST!
HUH?
ST- STAY AWAY! I'VE GOT A KNIFE!
KRAK!KK
OW!
NOT NOW YOU DON'T.
GO HOME. YER SEARCH FOR REVENGE WON'T BRING YOU NO PEACE.
IT'LL ONLY LEAD YOU TO HELL.

SHE GETS ANGRY.
THE ANGER MAKES HER FORGET HER FEAR.
HOW DARE YOU ORDER ME AROUND! WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
THEY CALL ME STICK. I'M A FRIEND OF MATT MURDOCK. I WARNED HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU.
NOW, I'M WARNING YOU. DON'T FOLLOW THIS ROAD, GIRL.
I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT!
YOU'RE TOO FULL OF HATE!
IF Y'AIN'T CAREFUL, IT'LL DESTROY YA.
Oh!
I DON'T CARE!!

AND SO SHE READS...
...EVERY BOOK ON EVERY MARTIAL ART SHE CAN FIND.
AND AS SHE READS, SHE DREAMS OF INFLICTING PAIN ON THE PEOPLE WHO RUINED HER LIFE.
KNKK KNKK
WE HAVE A GLOCK. A BERETTA. A SMITH and WESSON. FOR YOU I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST--
I'LL TAKE THEM ALL.
I SEE.
YOU FIGURING ON STARTING A WAR?
NO.
FINISHING ONE.


LITTLE ITALY.
UNTIL NOW, HER LIFE'S BEEN ONE OF COMFORT.
FINE HOTELS, MAIDS, FRENCH PERFUME.
THEN SHE SEES HIM.
HE IS THE ONE.
SHE PUTS ON A SCARF.
THE BULGE OF THE GUNS BENEATH HER COAT SPEAKS OF JUST HOW QUICKLY THAT WORLD WAS BLOWN AWAY.
INSTEAD OF A REGULAR GUY...
THE ONE THAT MATT WORE.
THE DAY HER FATHER DIED.
AND SHE WISHES THIS MAN LOOKED MORE LIKE A MONSTER.
...WITH A REGULAR, STRATEGICALLY-PLACED BODYGUARD WATCHING HIS BACK.
Hmph.
AMATEUR.

SHE WATCHES AS HE ENTERS A CHURCH
AND HESITATES AGAIN
AND REMEMBERS STICK'S WORDS ABOUT HELL.
SHE DOES NOT WANT TO GO TO HELL.
NOR CAN SHE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THIS MAN LIVES.
THE BODY GUARD HAS KILLED SIX MEN IN HIS LIFE
HE HAS NEVER KILLED A WOMAN
BUT HE WON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT
THE MAN'S NAME DOESN'T MATTER
THERE ARE MANY LIKE HIM PRAYING IN CHURCHES ACROSS THE LAND.
I HOPE THAT PRAYER WAS A GOOD ONE.
Huh?

IT WILL BE YOUR LAST.
HEY WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOIN' IN--
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT.
I'M NOT A NICE GIRL
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM ??
A REAL FATHER WHO WAS AN AMBASSADOR
AND SEEING AS I'VE GOT A GUN, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, TOO.
SO YOU'RE THE CUTIE-PIE DAUGHTER. LOOK, I JUST RECRUITED THOSE IDIOTS FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M NOT THE ONE YOU WANT
MAYBE NOT.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE GOT

NOW I'M--
Wha??
NGNGG! G-GET--
SAY, SHE'S GOT SOME FIGHT IN HER
YOU'RE BLEEDIN', BOSS!
I KNOW I'M BLEEDING. I'M BLEEDING ALL OVER MY NEW CAMEL'S HAIR COAT!
AND I LIKE THIS COAT!!
SMKKK
DO I WASTE HER NOW, BOSS?
DON'T BE SUCH A HEATHEN! THIS'S A CHURCH A PLACE OF HOLY WORSHIP
TAKE HER OUTSIDE
THEN WASTE HER

COME ON, BABY. I'LL MAKE IT NICE AND EASY ON YOU
AM
NOT
YOUR
BABY!
HNKK
AIIEEE!
YAIEEE!!
GET HOLD OF HER!
MY EYE! SHE'S TAKEN MY EYE OUT!!
QUIT MOANING! YOU GOT ANOTHER ONE!
I WANT THIS LITTLE VIXEN DEAD!

SHE HAS PERHAPS FOUR SECONDS.
FOUR SECONDS TO TAKE OUT HER GUN
WRAP A TREMBLING FINGER AROUND THE TRIGGER
Oh!
BUTTER-FINGERS
YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED IN YOUR NICE RICH WORLD, CUTIE-PIE.
BLAMM
BLAMM
KRKK
THINK YOU'RE SMART, Huh?
SHE'S AN AMATEUR.
BLAMM BLAMM
BLAMM
SHE'S DOING EVERYTHING WRONG
BUT CRAZILY, SHE'S STILL ALIVE

WHERE'S SHE GONE?
HEY, CUTIE-PIE, WHERE ARRRRE YOU?
I GOTTA GET TO A HOSPITAL - MAYBE THEY CAN SAVE MY EYE.
SHADDUP ABOUT YOUR EYE.
WE'LL GIVE YOU A PATCH AND CALL YOU CYCLOPS.
SHE TRACKS HIM
SHE KNOWS SHE WILL PROBABLY DIE TONIGHT
THAT GIVES HER A KIND OF FREEDOM.
A KIND OF EDGE
AT FIRST
HE THINKS A WILD ANIMAL HAS GOTTEN INTO THE CHURCH

AND IN A SENSE -
MY GOD!
--HE'S RIGHT.
AHH! GET--
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOT PLEASED TO SEE YOUR CUTIE-PIE?
BOSS?
BOSS, YOU ALL RIGHT?
SAVE SOME FOR ME, BOSS!

THIS IS FOR MY FATHER!
Uh uh YOU LOSE.
KLIK
no
SOMEONE UP THERE MUST LIKE ME.
AAI'EE
uhu.
uhu
uhu
AWW, HECK, BOSS. SHE ALMOST TOOK YER HEAD OFF!
AND IT COULDN'TA HAPPENED TO A NICER FELLA

WHAT'S WRONG, CYCLOPS?
TURNING A BLIND EYE TO ME?
OWW! YOU DIRTY--
CONSIDERING HOW NEW I AM AT THIS, I THINK I'M PRETTY GOOD.
NO... YOU JUST GOT LUCKY.
AND NOW YOUR LUCK'S ALL RUN OUT!
YGNNN!!
C-CAN'T MOVE
SHOULD'VE GONE WITH MY FIRST INSTINCT-- SNAPPED HIS NECK.
HAVE TO PLAY POSSUM NOW... LET HIM GET CLOSE.
DROP THE KNIFE.

MAYBE I WON'T KILL YOU STRAIGHT OFF. MAYBE I'LL CALL UP TEN OR SO WISE GUYS--
--AND WE CAN HAVE A PARTY!
WE'LL KEEP GOING UNTIL YOU BEG TO BE KILLED!
UNTIL YOU BEG FOR IT, LADY!
THEN SHE HEARS IT.
SHE WILL COME TO KNOW THIS SOUND.
THEN SHE SEES IT.
SHE IS STRUCK BY ITS BEAUTY.
SHE WILL KNOW THIS BEAUTY.
AND THEN SHE FEELS IT.
FEELS IT ENTER HIM, FEELS HIS FINAL SPASM OF LIFE.
SHE WILL KNOW THIS FEELING.

HE'S DEAD! WHO--
WHO'S THERE?!
A MOVEMENT, IN THE SHADOWS...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
YOU? STICK? WHY?
DID... MATT SEND YOU?
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
MATT SENT YOU... TO WATCH OVER ME!
YOU'D BETTER DISAPPEAR, ELEKTRA. BEFORE THE COPS SHOW UP.
THANK YOU. AND THANK MATT FOR ME. TELL HIM, FOR HIS SAKE...
...I WILL TRY TO REDEEM MYSELF.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY FROM MY READING, THIS WEAPON IS CALLED A SAI.
FIRST USED BY OKINAWAN PEASANTS AGAINST SAMURAI.
FLOPP
A MOST SUBTLE WEAPON.
PERHAPS... I SHALL LEARN HOW TO USE IT...
IT WEARS NINJA ROBES.
AND CARRIES ONLY ONE OF ITS TWO SAIS.
HE HEARS THE NOISE...
...BEHIND HIM.
ELEKTRA HAS THE OTHER.

IT FIGURES.
IT WASN'T ME WHO SAVED ELEKTRA.
IT WAS YOU.
AN AGENT OF THE HAND.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS?
fzzzzt
GONE.
SO, ELEKTRA... YOU LIVE...
"... BUT AT WHAT PRICE?"
TO BE CONTINUED...